

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th January 1900.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO : THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM : THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: [Illegible]



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 18th, 1900.

Indian loyalty in the Transvaal war.

Out of evil cometh good. The Anglo-Indian newspapers have, in this crisis, come to understand what they could not understand at any other time. They have now discovered that the Indian people are loyal to the backbone. Has the Boer war broken out for the good of the Indian people? It is our firm conviction that the Indian people would not wish the British Government ill even if it were ultimately defeated and driven out of South Africa. The defeat would only serve to strengthen and increase their loyalty and affection. The Indian will then really be a citizen of the British Empire, and will receive the glorious rights and privileges of British subjects.

The Boer war has already done immense good to the Indian people. Englishmen have at last discovered their mistake, and the *Englishman* has written a sympathetic article, confessing its mistake regarding Indian feeling in the Transvaal war. The *Englishman* which has systematically abused the Indians as disloyal and the Indian National Congress as the nursery of sedition now admits that the Indians are neither disloyal nor seditious.

The *Englishman* has at last rightly gauged Indian feeling. Indians no doubt protest against English haughtiness and high handedness, but Indian loyalty cannot be questioned. Let the English officials in India understand this clearly. Let suspicion die, and let Indians be trusted as sincerely and as unhesitatingly as their European fellow-subjects. Let the difference between the system of Government in force in England and that in force in India cease to exist. Let all the rights of British subjects be conferred on the Indian people.

2. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January has the following:—

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 19th, 1900.

The Boer war and Indian loyalty.

Boer skill and bravery have really surprised us. England will no doubt be victorious in the end, and the Boers will have to suffer heavy losses; but still the civilised world will not be able to soon forget the unparalleled heroism which the Boers are displaying, the niche which they are carving for themselves in the temple of fame. It speaks no doubt a good deal in favour of Boer bravery that they have so long successfully opposed the British troops and defeated them in most of the engagements. It requires a good deal of strength and valour to successfully oppose a powerful British army. How can we call the Boers worthless when hundreds of British officers and thousands of British soldiers have had to lay down their lives in the war with them? It may be that they have shown more cleverness than courage, more intelligence than bravery; but still we are bound to praise their manhood. No full and correct information has yet reached us from the seat of war. News is, in fact, being slowly and tardily disclosed. But still ample proofs of Boer bravery have already reached us.

The English expected to gain an easy victory over the Boers, but their expectation has not been fulfilled. They considered the Boers as beneath their contempt, but they have had to pay a penalty for their mistake. The Boers are the enemies of the English; they are therefore also our enemies. But we must nevertheless praise them, for even the Devil should have his due. The English soldiers had long been indulging themselves in luxury and fared ill under high pressure. It is no doubt a gain that the Boer war has disclosed this weak point in the British army. The impression is gaining ground in the public mind that the defeat of the Boers, though inevitable in the long run, is still very far off. In the opinion of the public, the British army badly calls for reform. We now learn at the sacrifice of many valuable lives that not even the most insignificant enemy should be treated with contempt.

The war, disastrous as it has already proved to the British, has nevertheless done great good to them. The Indian people also have gained not a little. In the first place, no Indian has been killed by a British soldier since the war broke out. Rupture of the spleen, accidental shooting, and the killing of natives in self-defence, have not been heard of since the war was declared. This shows that all these unhappy incidents are due to the idleness and inactivity of the soldiers. It has also been proved that India has to maintain



a larger European army than what is required by her. But this is not all. The war has also dispelled the idea which had been growing in the public mind that the Indian people were seditious and disloyal. The officials have now come to understand that this impression is utterly unfounded and unwarrantable.

The *Englishman* has at last openly declared that the Indians are loyal and there are indications to prove their loyalty. Our contemporary writes:—

"These and other indications, notably the tone of the Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular press, of the wave of patriotism that is sweeping over India cannot but be most heartily welcomed by every Briton. They are a sign that, after all, the efforts of our statesmen and rulers to knit together in one common bond of kinship all the people of the British Empire have not been in vain. Britain may have many enemies, but it is a proud satisfaction to know that none of them are of her own house."

These remarks are no doubt highly refreshing and encouraging. It had so long been our conviction that it was as impossible for the *Englishman* to declare the natives loyal as it is said to be impossible for a ghost to utter the name of Ram. But what was considered to be impossible has now come to pass. To tell the truth, there is a strong current of loyalty flowing in the Indian heart. Even the *Englishman* admits that there is no sedition, no disloyalty in the country. The hard words which sometimes escape from the lips of an eloquent, but caustic speaker do not prove Indian disloyalty. We would have been immensely benefited if our contemporary had expressed himself as he now has before the sedition law was passed.

We will certainly look upon this war as a thing of good omen if the authorities at last come to truly and correctly interpret our feelings, to understand that we cannot but be loyal, that we are peaceful subjects, and that we do not want a revolution in the State.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 19th, 1900.

3. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th January has the following:—

A proposal for opening a Muslim fund in connection with the Transvaal war.

Two funds have been opened in Calcutta, one by the Europeans at the request of the Lord Mayor of England and the other by the British Indian Association, to help the destitute families of the soldiers who have died or are wounded in the Transvaal war. Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore, the worthy son of Maharaja Jatindra Mohan Tagore, has taken the lead in this matter. We request our Musulman brethren to come forward to help the distressed by opening another fund for the purpose. The Lord Mayor, as the representative of the English people, did much to help the distressed in India during the famine of 1897. This is, therefore, a rare opportunity to show our gratitude to the English people.

HABLUL MATEEN,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

4. The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes as follows:—

The Transvaal war.

The Boers by some unexpected victories, have gained a place among the European Powers. But the rumour that the Russians are secretly inciting the European Powers to co-operate with the Boers is not well founded. The following are our reasons for thinking so:—

- (1) The Boers do not appear to be in need of outside help.
- (2) The European Powers have publicly expressed their satisfaction at the victories of the Boers and have made remarks about the unmannerly conduct of the British, and have also used improper words towards the Queen. But they have not yet done any thing to openly help the Boers, which they would have done if the rumours about Russian intrigue had been correct.
- (3) As yet no Power has taken the side of either the Boers or the British. But it is possible that if the Boers are defeated, some Powers, especially Germany, France and Russia, may interfere.

It appears that a change in the English ministry is called for; the English press seems to favour the idea of such a change. The openly expressed Irish sympathy with the Boers is one of the chief causes of the determination of the Boers to fight against the British.



The wise men of England as well as the English press have advised the Government to send the native troops of India to South Africa. But the question is, as a large number of English troops have been sent from India to the seat of war, if some Power ventures to invade India now, who shall check that invasion in the absence of native troops? Moreover, the German papers are already speaking ominously that if the Transvaal war continues for a long time, even India will be involved in danger.

5. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January has the following:—

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

Indian loyalty in the Transvaal war.

Since the outbreak of the Boer war and the occurrence of the Boer victories, the Europeans in India have been calling the Indians disloyal. But, thank God, they have now found out their mistake, and even the *Englishman* calls them loyal. In this Boer war Indians are prepared to serve the British Government in every way. Notwithstanding the prevalence of famine in India, the Indians are subscribing to the Transvaal War Fund, and are praying to God for British victory.

6. The same paper writes:—

The capture of a German steamer by the British.

We are at a loss to understand why the British Government has expressed regret for having captured a German steamer which was really guilty of carrying arms and ammunition for the Boers, and we do not understand why heavy compensation should at all be paid to the Germans for the detention of this steamer.

BHARAT MITRA.

7. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes as follows:—

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

Indian feeling in the Transvaal war.

A Bengali correspondent of the *Englishman* has tried to gauge native feeling in the Transvaal war. The truth of what the correspondent says cannot be questioned, although we are not sure whether he has done good or harm to the Indian public by thus correctly interpreting native feeling in the Transvaal war. The peace-loving Hindu is naturally against blood-shed, and there can be no doubt that he keenly feels the British losses in the Transvaal war. But danger and disaster have a chastening and controlling influence, and this is why educated Indians felt a little elated at the British reverses. But it must also be admitted that the reverses would have caused them serious anxiety if British victory in the long run had not been certain.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a) — Police.

8. The *Bankura Darpon* [Bankura] of the 16th January complains of the ravages of wild elephants in Ratanpur and the neighbouring villages in the Bankura district. The elephants come in large herds from the jungle every year and destroy the standing crops of the villagers. Something ought to be done to save the villagers from their ravages.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Jan. 16th, 1900.

9. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 17th January has the following:—

Thefts in a village in the Murshidabad district.

Thieves have become very active in Maniadihi, within the jurisdiction of the Baroan police-station in the Murshidabad district. Two or three cases of theft are occurring every month in the village, but the police has failed to trace the crime in almost every instance. The thieves have been so much emboldened that they are doing their bad work in broad day-light. The number of *badmashes* in the village is daily increasing. Maniadihi being about four miles and-a-half from the Baroan police-station, the number of theft cases may be expected to become fewer if a police-station is opened at the village Panchthupi, between the Baroan and the Bharatpur police-stations.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 17th, 1900.

10. A correspondent complains in the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January of the recrudescence of dacoity in the Punjab. A few days ago an armed gang of forty entered into the house of a widow of Bhabali and carried off Rs. 4,000. On the 12th January last, a daring dacoity was committed at Rohtas by twelve *badmashes*, who killed two women and carried away valuables worth Rs. 12,000. In

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

Lawlessness in the Punjab.



Bandiyan fifty dacoits entered into the house of a banker, murdered him in cold blood, destroyed valuable documents, and carried off Rs. 9,000. Another dacoity was committed, not long ago, in Thoba Mohran Saha. The dacoits most cruelly oppressed the female inmates of the house. Five or six days ago a shop in Miran Jandran was looted in broad day-light.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

11. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 15th January has the following:—

Babu Syam Kumud Mukhopadhyaya, Deputy Magistrate of Comilla.

The number of criminal cases in Comilla has diminished by more than half owing to the new procedure, invented by Babu Syam Kumud Mukhopadhyaya, Deputy Magistrate of Comilla, for the trial of criminal cases. In this district an accused person invariably brings a counter-charge against the complainant. It is said that Syam Kumud Babu compels both parties to give bail and in most cases presses them to compromise. There can, of course, be no objection if the parties willingly compromise their cases. But it is not always possible for the aggrieved party to make a compromise. How, for instance, can a man who has received grievous hurt and come to Court for justice, consent to his case being compromised? Is it not miscarriage of justice to press him to compromise? In consequence of the adoption of this new method, Syam Kumud Babu can singly dispose of all the criminal cases in the district. There are four Deputy Magistrates in Comilla, but the number of cases on their files is so small that some of them leave Court after 2 P.M., having nothing to do after that hour. It will not, therefore, interfere with public business if one of them is transferred from the station. And as Syam Kumud Babu has become very unpopular in the place, it is he who ought to go away.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Jan. 16th, 1900

12. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th January has the following:—

A heavy sentence.

One Intaj Shaikh, of village Gajabari, within the jurisdiction of the Tangail police-station, in the Mymensingh district, was sent up by the police before the Deputy Magistrate of Tangail for having murdered Chhabed Shaikh of that village with a *dao*. Intaj stated before the Deputy Magistrate that on the night of the occurrence, when he and his young wife Ifatannacha were sleeping in their bed room, Chhabed entered the room by breaking open the door and pulled his wife by her leg. Thereupon Intaj threw a *dao*, which was near him, at Chhabed, and this caused his death. The Deputy Magistrate framed a charge against Intaj under section 304 of the Indian Penal Code and committed him to the sessions. He was tried before the Additional Sessions Judge with a jury, was found guilty, and sentenced to 8 years' rigorous imprisonment. We are astonished at the severity of the sentence. There is every chance of a miscarriage of justice if the facts and the law in a case are not clearly explained to the jurors. In this case there is no doubt that Chhabed had a guilty intention when he entered the bed-room of Intaj at midnight and pulled his wife by her leg, and we think that the jury clearly understood this. But the question of self-defence, involved in the case, perplexed the jurors. The Additional Sessions Judge, in his charge to the jury, expressed the opinion that Intaj exceeded his right of private defence in killing Chhabed. But it is not quite impossible that a man, under the circumstances, should lose his self-control and do a rash and negligent act. It is difficult for a man, in Intaj's situation, to accurately determine the limits of the right of private defence. The jury understood all this and therefore recommended him to the mercy of the Court. But it is very strange that, notwithstanding this recommendation, the Additional Sessions Judge inflicted on Intaj such a severe punishment. We believe that Chhabed would not probably have been sentenced to a severer punishment if he had succeeded in carrying out his guilty intention unopposed.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 19th, 1900.

13. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January writes as follows:—

Mr. Jarbo.

Mr. Jarbo has been transferred to Midnapore and his powers have been curtailed for his high-handedness in Rampur Hât; but even this has not brought him to his senses. Recently three people were prosecuted for forcibly cutting paddy. Mr. Jarbo



issued warrants against them simply on the evidence tendered by the complainant. He did not even order the enlargement of the accused on bail. On the 15th December, one of the accused, Babu Rajendra Narayan Mazumdar, applied for bail, and Mr. Jarbo granted it most reluctantly. The 19th December was fixed for the hearing of the case. But the complainant did not appear. Mr. Jarbo thereupon addressed Rajendra Babu thus:—"It is you, I think, who have prevented the complainant from appearing. You are a gentleman and have cut paddy. I shall not let you off." The other two accused then appeared, and addressing them Mr. Jarbo said:—"You are all gentlemen and have cut paddy. Since my entering the service I have always tried to protect the poor from oppression by the rich."

The mukhtar for the accused then applied for bail, but Mr. Jarbo said: "I am not a child. I shall not change my decision." He then remanded two of the accused to jail, releasing only Rajendra Babu on bail. At this time the complainant appeared, but Mr. Jarbo said, addressing him: "The case cannot be compromised. If you fail to prove your case, you shall be sent to jail for two years. Forcible paddy-cutting is becoming quite frequent in this country. I am determined to put this practice down. If any such case is filed in my court, I shall send either the complainant or the accused to jail."

The accused moved the High Court for the transfer of the case to another Court on the ground that they were not likely to get justice from Mr. Jarbo after such an expression of opinion. If it is true that Mr. Jarbo really expressed such opinion before trial, the sooner he is deprived of judicial powers the better.

(d)—Education.

14. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes as follows:—

Failure of the training schools in Bengal.

The Lieutenant-Governor regrets that the English training classes opened some years ago for the training of English teachers for secondary schools have proved a failure. The Hooghly class was closed for want of pupils, and the classes at Calcutta, Dacca, Cuttack and Patna are in a moribund condition. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that "in England the idea is exploded that a man can go straight from the examination hall to the teacher's desk; and the existence of an art of teaching, capable itself of being taught, is fully recognised." The Lieutenant-Governor ought not, however, to have forgotten that a salary of Rs. 10 or 15 a month is not sufficient encouragement to a trained teacher, and no one would take the trouble of joining a training class for such a small remuneration. Where trained teaching is paying there the training of teachers is a success. It is said that Dr. Welldon has been pecuniarily a loser by accepting the Bishopric of Calcutta. But it appears from the Government's resolution on public instruction in Bengal, that the appointment of cheap teachers has materially reduced the educational expenditure of the country. The teachers of the lower primary schools earn less than common labourers. It is not therefore expected that the teachers in this country would trouble their heads about scientific education. It is in this country alone that it is possible to find the advertisement in a newspaper that a teacher is wanted on a salary of Rs. 2 a month! To tell the truth, the policy of curtailing educational expenditure is the most ill-advised policy. Education cannot be promoted without improving the condition of the teachers and increasing their self-respect.

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

15. A correspondent writes in the *Som Prakash* [Calcutta] of the 15th

The Kumarkhali Municipality in the Nadia district.

January that the Kumarkhali Municipality, in the Nadia district, has issued a notice requiring the temple at Doarpul, south of the Kumarkhali bazar, built some 4 or 5 years ago with the permission of the Municipality, to be demolished. The temple as it stands is not a public obstruction. One therefore fails to understand why the Municipality has ordered its demolition.

16. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 18th January is sorry to learn that the

Charitable dispensaries and hospitals at Khulna.

Commissioner of the Presidency Division has not sanctioned the opening of a public charitable dispensary at Nawapara in the Khulna district. The

SOM PRAKASH,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

KHULNA,  
Jan. 18th, 1900.



District Board provided in their budget for the construction of four charitable dispensaries in 1901, but Mr. Buckland has amended the budget on the ground that the construction of so many as four dispensaries would necessitate a drawing from the Road Cess Fund.

Mr. Buckland, Mr. S. C. Mukherji, District Magistrate of Khulna, and the Civil Surgeon of the district should be thanked for the lively interest they took in the founding of the Woodburn hospital at Khulna. Most of the Khulna landowners are absentee landlords. But thanks to the Commissioner and the Magistrate, they succeeded in getting liberal contributions from them to the Hospital Fund. The magnificent building will long remain a monument of the liberality of the founders of the hospital. Rai Hari Charan Chaudhuri contributed most liberally to the hospital fund, and we are disappointed not to see his name in the Honours list.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

CHARU MIHIR,  
Jan. 16th, 1899.

17. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th January has the following:—

A road without good bridges in the Mymensingh district.

Some bridges are wanted over the feeder road from the 34th milestone on the Rangamati Road in Mymensingh to the Kalihati-Madhupur Road. Bamboo bridges are constructed across this road every year, but most of them are broken before the commencement of the rainy season. We hope that the District Board will pay a little more attention to this road and remove the inconvenience complained of. There is no bridge over the Fatikjani Khal, and this causes a great deal of inconvenience.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 19th, 1900.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January complains that there is no good road to the Nazra station on the southern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Wanted a feeder road to the Nazra station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Nazra is one of the most important stations on this line, and the construction of a feeder road will increase the goods traffic through this station.

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

19. A correspondent complains in the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January of the conduct of Mr. Lazarus, a Permanent Way Inspector at Itakhola. He is in the habit of extorting money from his subordinates. During Christmas he demanded money from some of his subordinates and dismissed them on their failing to comply with his demand. On the 30th December last he asked Babu Rajanikanta Dhar, a clerk under him, to pay false pay bills made in the name of two or three employes who do not really belong to the Itakhola workshop. He beat the clerk on his declining to do so.

(h)—*General.*

MEDINI BANDHAY,  
Jan. 17th, 1900.

20. A correspondent complains in the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 17th January that the publication of the declarations relating to the acquisition of lands for public purposes in the *Calcutta Gazette* is not sufficient for the purpose of acquainting the raiyats with such facts. Various instances could be cited to prove this. Here are a few. It is rumoured that some cross *bandhs* on the Kansabati and the Panchthupi will be removed. The removal of the cross *bandhs* on the Panchthupi will do great harm to the cultivators who grow *til* on the lands on the bank of this river. It is not, however, known whether the rumour about the removal of the cross *bandhs* on the Panchthupi is true or not. The best way to keep the raiyats informed of such matters is to publish these declarations about land acquisition and all notices connected with land in the local newspapers, or in some widely circulated Calcutta newspapers.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 19th, 1900.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January complains of the conduct of the Postmaster of Dumka in the Sonthal-Parganas district. It is he, and not the Superintendent as reported some time ago, who had ordered that no one knowing telegraphic work should be allowed to enter the post-office compound. The Postmaster is also in the habit of reading private post-cards and newspapers. Complaints are also made against him in connection with the despatch of telegrams. He does not also attend to postal complaints.



## III.—LEGISLATIVE.

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January is surprised that among the members of the Select Committee to which the Assam Emigration Bill has been submitted there is not one who can represent the interests of the coolies. Members like Rai Bipin Krishna Basu Bahadur and Mr. P. Mehta ought to be taken on this Committee. Otherwise great injustice will be done to the coolies.

The Select Committee on the Assam Emigration Bill.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 18th, 1900.

23. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January is glad that on account of the protest of the Punjab people against the Punjab Land Alienation Bill, the Punjab Government is going to modify its provisions. It is to be hoped that the modified Bill will not in any way estrange the relations between the mahajans and the raiyats. There is no denying that the cultivating classes of the Punjab largely depend upon the mahajans, because they cannot carry on cultivation without money. If the Government prevents the raiyats from borrowing money from the mahajans, it will have to lend money itself. The Punjab Government intends to prevent the cultivators from mortgaging their lands to the mahajans, because lands so mortgaged do not come out of the clutches of the mahajans. To tell the truth, the majority of the mahajans do not require lands; they want to increase their capital by investing it. If the Government forbids the mortgage of lands to the mahajans, the mahajans will stop lending money, and when the mahajans will stop lending money to the cultivators, systematic payment of the land revenue by the zamindars will also become difficult. It was the mahajans who saved the Punjab people from starvation in 1877—that year of severe famine; and it was again the mahajans who saved them during the next famine. Again it was mainly due to the money of the mahajans that the Punjab people did not die of starvation during the last famine. The greater portion of the income-tax and other taxes are paid by the mahajans. They supply the Government with money in executing works of public utility. Houses of public worship, tanks and wells, are all due to the charity of the mahajans. They do not hesitate to lend money even to the Government. As a community, they are at heart loyal to the British *raj*. Under these circumstances, it would be bad policy to consider the mahajans as noxious as vermin sucking the blood of the raiyats.

The Punjab Land Alienation Bill.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January is sorry to understand that the Government has appointed an Executive Council in Indore, and has materially curtailed the executive powers of the Maharaja. The Maharaja will have now to govern the State with the help of this Council. There has been a disagreement between the Maharaja and the Resident, who does not like that he should be staying away from his State in Bombay and the North-Western Provinces. During his minority the Maharaja once whipped a European officer, and that offence has not yet been forgotten. Lord Curzon is a friend of Native Chiefs, and he ought to personally hear what the Maharaja has to say in answer to the charges preferred against him by the Resident. This is sure to restore peace and amity.

The Maharaja Holkar.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 18th, 1900.

25. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes as follows:—  
The *Advocate of India* says that there exists some difference of opinion between the Maharaja Holkar of Indore and the British Resident, and that the Government of India desires to appoint a Council in that State. Owing to this the Maharaja has left his capital and is wandering about with an armed body-guard. This conduct of the Maharaja has perplexed and annoyed his State officials. The *Englishman* says that various rumours are current about the Maharaja, but he has now come back to his capital. Though the Government has not yet appointed a Council, it appears that it will do so very soon. We hope that Lord Curzon will not do anything without proper investigation and enquiry.

The Maharaja Holkar.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.



HABUL MATEEN,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

26. The *Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes as follows :—

An objectionable order by the  
Maharaja of Cashmere.

The Maharaja of Cashmere some time ago issued an order requiring that the terms *haqqul marafaga* (right of occupancy) should be used in place of *milkiat* (proprietary right) in deeds of sale, purchase, and in wills. The order, though very severe, was carried into effect by the people out of loyalty. Lately, a fresh order has been issued in which the Maharaja insists upon the use of the terms *Khalisa-e-surkar* (Maharaja's khas mahal) in place of the terms *haqqul marafaga*. In consequence of this order, all the subjects, high and low, are going to be made to give up the right which had been acquired many generations ago. Aqa Ahmad of Mazindran held a meeting and submitted a memorial to the Maharaja on behalf of the raiyats. Up to this time, however, no favourable order has been passed upon this memorial, and the Government is going to carry out its order by surveying the lands and preparing records of rights.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SANJIVANI.  
Jan. 18th, 1900.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January has the following :—

Lord Curzon's famine policy.

"First of all it appears desirable," writes the Government in its famine circular, "to re-affirm the underlying principle of famine relief that the State does not undertake to secure the people from all sufferings in the event of failure of the crops, but only to protect them from starvation."

This certainly gives us great cause for anxiety. Is it the duty of the Government to come to the rescue of the people only when they are about to die from starvation? Will no one be helped so long as he shows no outward signs of starvation, but is all the same feeling the pinch of starvation and suffering?

The Government fears that the resources at its command may not suffice to cope with this year's famine, and it has therefore advised the famine officers to curtail the rate of relief recommended by the Famine Commission. This is also a cause for anxiety. The Famine Commission consisted of able and experienced officers, and they arrived at their decision after a good deal of enquiry and deliberation. It is a great pity that Lord Curzon is going to upset that decision without appointing another Commission to make further enquiry into the matter.

Lord Curzon no doubt fears that famine relief will this year draw heavily on the public exchequer, and this is perhaps the only reason why he has ordered the reduction of the rates of relief. In the Viceroy's opinion it is the high rate of relief which has this year drawn such large numbers to the relief works. In no famine in the past did the number of labourers on relief works exceed 7 or 8 per cent. In the present famine the number has already exceeded 15 per cent., the maximum limit according to the Famine Commission. In Lord Curzon's opinion this increase in the influx of applicants for relief is due to the high rate of famine relief.

The distress is being most keenly felt in the Central Provinces. That part of the country experienced a severe famine in 1896-97, and another famine, perhaps much more severe, has broken out there before the expiry of three more years. If famines occur so frequently, even 50, not to speak of 15, per cent. of the people may be compelled to apply for famine relief. As a matter of fact, people in this country do not apply for famine relief before they have sold off their cattle and domestic utensils. But this year, owing to a severe fodder famine, people have lost their cattle, and are completely resourceless. This easily explains the large increase in the number of applicants for famine relief. The Indian people are very poor; but they are exceedingly fond of self-help. No Indian would apply for public relief except when compelled to do so.

Famines are closely following famines, and the Government must be prepared for a heavy famine expenditure. The Indian people are annually paying about a crore and-a-half simply for the purpose of famine insurance. The Government has applied this money to other purposes. Let it now spend that money in relieving the distress of the famine-stricken.



The duty of the Government does not end with saving people from starvation. It is also its duty to supply them with cattle and clothing. We do not request the Government to sumptuously feed the famine-stricken, but it is certainly its duty to protect the people not only from starvation, but from other sufferings as well.

The Secretary of State seems to be taking a more liberal view of famine relief. "The Government," writes the Secretary of State's Secretary, "is pledged to spare neither outlay nor effort in the attempt to relieve distress and save life in the present famine." The opinion of the Secretary of State and the opinion of the Government of India do not evidently tally with each other.

28. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January has the following:—

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

Lord Curzon's defence of his  
Famine Circular.

"I have seen it stated," said Lord Curzon in his famine speech delivered on the 19th instant, "that no one goes on to relief works who is not threatened with actual starvation. Such is most emphatically not the case. I have myself seen hundreds—I might say thousands—of persons upon relief works who were in no such state of necessity or destitution. I have heard of persons accepting relief whose credit would easily have tided them over to better times. I know of cases in which men in receipt of famine relief have admitted that they have saved a portion of their famine wages, and in which families proceeding together on to the works have earned more than they would have done in the ordinary circumstances of life." It thus appears that the few instances of the abuse of famine relief which Lord Curzon came across in his famine tour, lie at the root of his famine circular, and it is quite natural that he should be offended and cut to the quick by adverse remarks coming from people who have no personal experience of the existing state of things. But the public certainly have the right to examine the instances of abuse of famine relief which have led the Viceroy to order restricted relief. The outbreak of a famine dislocates trade and commerce to a very large extent and throws hundreds of persons out of employment. At such a time of widespread distress as this, it is not easy to rightly gauge the extent of poverty and destitution. The Viceroy said that he had seen hundreds, nay, thousands of persons upon relief works who were in no such state of necessity or destitution as to warrant that they were suffering from actual starvation. We fail to feel the force of these remarks. We do not know whether His Excellency made a close and scrutinising enquiry into the condition of these people; but it appears from the tenor of his speech that they did not bear on their persons those marks of emaciation, nakedness and despair, which are generally associated with destitution and starvation. But Lord Curzon is not right if this has led him to think that these people were comparatively well off. During the famine even families with moderate incomes feel the pinch of want. To cite one instance, many primary schools are abolished during a panic, and their teachers are thrown out of employment. Such a catastrophe as the outbreak of a famine introduces great disorder and panic, and most people are at a loss how to gain a livelihood. The late plague scare in Calcutta proved this. During a famine there is as a rule a recrudescence of theft and dacoity, a rise in mortality—a panic, a scare, which prevent people from investing their capital and thereby creating occupations for themselves. In these times of unrest and anxiety, it is neither generous nor advisable to counsel self-help. Let us cite a few instances to show how widespread the present famine is. There has, this year, been a heavy cattle mortality, which is proved by the unparalleled rise in the export of hides. Now this heavy cattle mortality means that there is a serious want of draught animals in the famine-stricken parts of the country, which again means a dislocation of business. Instances could be thus multiplied to prove how in times of distress all people suffer more or less. The Viceroy says that "in the Sholapur district of Bombay, a class of landowners has accepted relief which has never previously done so." This is no doubt a new fact; but a sympathetic consideration of it would show that it need not lead us to any ungenerous conclusion. The prosperity of a landowner depends on the prosperity of his raiyats. The raiyats being reduced to utter destitution, it is no wonder that the petty landowner should be compelled to apply for relief. There is, therefore, no reason to suppose that no care is being taken to distinguish the deserving from the undeserving applicants for famine



relief. It is, moreover, very likely that among the millions of recipients of relief there are a few who are undeserving; but it will not be just and generous to cause hardship to the thousands of deserving recipients for the sake of these few undeserving recipients. To our mind, it has been quite out of place to speak of self-help in this year of admittedly severe and widespread distress. Lord Curzon himself says that this year the Indian people are not likely to receive any outside help, and we need not point out to him that the keenness of the distress in the Bombay Presidency has been aggravated by the glut in the cotton market and the ravages of the plague.

This being the case, Lord Curzon has not done well in depending so much on his limited personal experience. The applicants for relief have to work hard before they get it, and we do not believe that any but the utterly destitute would submit to hard work and indignity in order to receive famine relief. The labour test on relief works is the best possible test of real destitution: no other test is necessary.

To tell the truth, we cannot appreciate the large-heartedness of one who, while admitting the severity and extent of the distress and recognising that no outside help is forthcoming, does not hesitate to order the restriction of relief. If Lord Curzon's speech misleads any famine officer and induces him to be strict in granting relief, not even a flood of self-laudatory eloquence of hundreds of speech-making Viceroys will wash off the stain which will be cast on the Government by the suffering and starvation of thousands of famine-stricken people.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 19th, 1900.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January has the following from a correspondent:—

Mr. Bolton.

There are few sympathetic and large-hearted officials like the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton, who is soon going to take furlough. No one who goes to pay him a visit comes back disappointed. His courtesy and amiability have never failed to please those who have ever had the good fortune to see him. We know Mr. Bolton very well. He came to this country as an Assistant Magistrate at the age of twenty. His uncommon intelligence and vast erudition led the Government to entrust him with the supervision of the education of a district. The rules which he framed for giving effect to Sir George Campbell's primary education scheme are still guiding primary education. During the famine of 1874, he rendered signal work by protecting the Murshidabad people from starvation. Those services are still gratefully remembered by the Murshidabad public. During that famine we often found Mr. Bolton shedding tears at the sight of distress and helping poor people from his own pocket.

From Murshidabad Mr. Bolton was transferred to Rampur Hat. Here he studied Bengali and the vernaculars of the Chota Nagpur Division. He passed the examinations in the vernaculars with great credit. When at Rampur Hat, he put down cattle lifting, cattle poisoning and incendiarism with a high hand. In all cases between Natives and Eurasians Mr. Bolton was always strictly impartial. He materially encouraged education at Rampur Hat. He called a meeting and raised subscriptions for the purpose of distributing prizes to meritorious students. He invited the teachers and students of all the schools under him, and they were feasted and entertained with music for four or five days. Mr. Bolton's example is still followed by district authorities.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 19th, 1900.

30. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th January has the following:—

Lord Curzon and Sir John  
Woodburn.

We are glad to see the large-mindedness of Lord Curzon, our Viceroy. Have you ever seen such intelligence, experience and popularity in a young man like him? The country was visited by famine several times before, but who ever saw a Viceroy visiting the famine-stricken areas to see with his own eyes the condition of the distressed and expressing sympathy with them? And His Excellency has a worthy Lieutenant in Sir John Woodburn. They form, indeed, a most happy combination. The other day when Sir John Woodburn was out for a walk, a Bengali gentleman *salamed* him. He called the gentleman to come near him and most kindly enquired about his family affairs, forgetting



his own high position. Lord Curzon too most kindly received Mr. Ramesh Chandra Dutt, who went to pay his respects to him. Mr. Dutt is a worthy son of India, and Lord Curzon has shown his love for the people of India by receiving him kindly. The Viceroy has said on several occasions that he loves India and its people with all his heart.

31. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes as follows:—

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

The retiring Governor of Bombay.

Though the administration of the Governor of Bombay was not at all popular, still some people are prepared to give him a farewell address. Lord Sandhurst should consider whether he is really deserving of any such address for the services he has rendered to the people. Such visitations as the plague and the famine were no doubt calamities for which the people should thank their own stars, but it cannot be questioned that the misery brought about by these natural calamities was greatly aggravated by the regulations which Lord Sandhurst enforced.

32. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January has the following with

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1900.

The Bishops' Conference in the Town Hall.

reference to the Bishops' Conference at the Town Hall:—

The Bishops' speeches did not appeal to the reason or understanding of the audience. The burden of their speeches was that the acceptance of the principles of Christianity was best calculated to remove human misery and lighten the burden of suffering and misfortune, which presses so heavily on humanity. If the increase of worldly peace and happiness were the standard by which to judge the merits of a religious system, we might feel the force of the Bishops' arguments. But in our opinion it is not reasonable to prove the excellence of a religious system by descanting on its power to promote worldly peace and happiness. We cannot, however, fail to appreciate the Lord Bishop's religious zeal and enthusiasm. The religious ardour which is working within him cannot allow him to sit idle and indifferent; he is always ready with some proposal or other for exciting religious sentiments in the mind of the Indian public. We no doubt enjoy the fullest liberty to accept or not what the Bishops say, but it would be a great gain to us if, by coming into close contact with them, we drew from their conduct the noble inspiration of religious enthusiasm, zeal and determination which so conspicuously characterise them. There can be no two opinions about the greatness, the godliness and the holiness of Jesus Christ, and it does not matter whether we accept the Christian creed or not. We do not believe that there is any one who would in these days consider it a serious insult to Hinduism to place Jesus Christ by the side of Buddha, Chaitanya, Nanak, or Prahlad. No one is therefore likely to hurt the feelings of the Bishops by objecting to such innocent and beneficial religious discussions. The gospel of love which Jesus preached will always be given a very high place in the human heart; but there is always a difference of opinion as to whether the noble doctrine preached by Christ has been acted up to anywhere, except in his own life. We cannot, however, fail to admire the religious zeal and enthusiasm of Bishop Welldon. He is not one of those who are satisfied with flowing with the current and looking listlessly at what goes on in the world. To tell the truth, we have no objection to listen to the preachings of a Christian of the stamp of Doctor Welldon, but we must say that the unchristian conduct of the Europeans in India is sure to mar the effect of the Lord Bishop's deliverances. If Doctor Welldon wishes that his preachings should not be lost upon the Indian public, he should first of all direct his attention to the conduct of the Europeans in India, who do not seem to follow the noble precepts of Christianity.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

33. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 27th December has reason

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Dec. 27th, 1899.

Apprehended water-scarcity in Nagpur.

to apprehend that want of drinking water will be keenly felt by the residents of Nagpur in the Central Provinces in the month of April next, as the Ambajhari lake, which is their main source of water-supply, is becoming drier day by day.

34. The same paper is inclined to think that the number of bullocks

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

Deterioration of cattle in India.

and buffaloes in India is decreasing year by year, and their species deteriorating in the same way.



The writer hopes that as India is an agricultural country, and as agriculture cannot proceed without the help of cattle, attempts should be made by the leaders of the Indian community to improve the condition of their cattle by every means in their power.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Dec. 27th, 1899.

35. The same paper represents that a large number of pilgrims visit Jajpur town in the Cuttack district every year, and as the Jajpur road station of Bengal-Nagpur Railway is situated at a distance of 15 or 16 miles from Jajpur proper, and as no good road is available, the pilgrims are put to great inconvenience. The writer suggests that a branch railway line to Jajpur will prove not only convenient but lucrative to the Company.

36. Referring to the continued attack of Bombay by plague, the same paper points out that, along with other causes of the disease, the poverty of the people has to do much with it. The writer, therefore, hopes that the authorities will study this side of the question with attention.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

37. The same paper is of opinion that dry powder prepared from plantain fruits may be preserved in tight cases, and may be used by the poor in seasons of distress arising from scarcity of rice. This is practicable when a bad paddy harvest is followed by a good plantain harvest.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

38. All the native papers of Orissa regret to notice the transfer of Rai Radhanath Bahadur, late Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, to Bengal, as he was connected with the educational administration of Orissa for a large number of years.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
Jan. 4th, 1900.

39. A correspondent of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 4th January, by name Judhisthir Das, writes to say that the residents of 70 villages in Rukunadaipur in the Bhadrak subdivision of the Balasore district are anxious to have a branch post office in that place, and though they addressed the postal authorities more than once on the subject, their petitions have hitherto proved unsuccessful. The correspondent is willing to pay three months' charges, in case the postal authorities resolve to start an experimental post office at Rukunadaipur, and is confident that the branch office will prove paying, as about one thousand of the villagers are in Calcutta, who remit money to their relations at home and keep regular correspondence with them.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Jan. 3rd, 1900.

40. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 3rd January observes that the zamindars of Bengal should be allowed to send a representative member to the Legislative Council of Bengal, and that this can be granted without depriving the mufassal municipalities of their privilege of electing one member for the same Council.

UTKALDIPKA,  
Jan. 13th, 1900.

41. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th January is glad to learn that the Government of India has acknowledged the loyalty of many Indian Chiefs by kindly condescending to accept some of their offers in the shape of horses and other equipment for use in the South African war.

UTKALDIPKA.

42. Referring to the bestowal of the title of Rai Bahadur on the zamindar of Barpali in the Central Provinces, the same paper observes that the zamindar is generally known as the Raja of Barpali, and that it would have been a gracious act on the part of Government to make him a Raja at once.

UTKALDIPKA.

43. Referring to the proposed alterations in the *lutbandi kists*, the same paper points out that it will be very inconvenient to ask tenants to pay a twelve anna rent in the month of April, for they are compelled to pay sixteen anna water-rate in the months of February and March, and they are not expected to borrow money on the credit of crops in their farms, as no crops remain there in that part of the year. The writer, therefore, advises the authorities to make eight annas of the revenue payable in April and the other eight annas payable in November in the case of those *mahals* whose revenues exceed



Rs. 10, and sixteen-annas of the revenue payable in November in the case of those whose revenues are Rs. 10 or less. It is useless to ask zamindars to pay revenue without making arrangements whereby they may be able to realize rents from their raiyats. The writer further suggests that the twelve anna and four-anna *kists* or ten-annas-eight-pie and five-anna-four-pie *kists* in the case of some mahals, that are now in vogue, may be abolished altogether.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

#### 44. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 16th January has the following:—

Mr. Salkeld, Assistant Commissioner of Sylhet, and the Sub-divisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar.

The young civilian, Mr. Salkeld, who figured so much in the umbrella case in Maulvi Bazar, is now the Assistant Commissioner of Sylhet. His harsh treatment of the public is gradually overstepping the bounds of decency. Mr. Salkeld is not satisfied with unnecessarily rebuking his *amia*, but also abuses the mukhtars. No respectable mukhtar goes to his court for fear of being insulted. He does not allow the public, and in some cases even the parties, to enter his court-room. If anybody enters his court-room in ignorance of his orders, he is forcibly expelled.

Similar complaints are also being received against Mr. Hart, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, Assam. He never tries cases except at night, and parties have therefore to wait in his court till a very late hour in the evening. Daylight seems to have become so unbearable to him, that he never comes to court before dusk. It may be easily imagined what an amount of inconvenience mufassal people have to suffer in consequence of the late hours observed by this officer.

#### 45. The same paper has the following:—

The Deputy Inspectorship of Lukshmipur, Assam.

The post of Deputy Inspector of Schools of Lukshmipur has fallen vacant. It is said that Babu Keshub Lal Fukan, Head Master of the Dibrugarh Government School, will be appointed to the post. Babu Keshub Lal was promoted to the Head Mastership only a short time ago, and the local newspapers had, at the time, strongly protested against his promotion. But he is going to be again promoted within so short a time, although he is not meritorious enough to receive such rapid promotion. We hope that the Chief Commissioner will consider the claims of other able and efficient officers of the Education Department in this connection.

#### 46. The same paper has the following with reference to the removal of the Telegraph Training School from Sylhet to Silchar:—

Removal of the Telegraph Training School from Sylhet to Silchar.

When the training school was at Sylhet, the telegraph Superintendent of the Surma Valley, Assam, had to come to that place to examine the candidates, and the Government had to bear his travelling expenses. It is only to curtail this expenditure that the Government removed the school to Silchar. But Sylhet men, who wish to enter the Telegraph Department, have now to live in Silchar at considerable expense. For poor people it is not possible to make this expense, and therefore the Telegraph Department is virtually closed to the people of Sylhet. We draw the attention of our kindhearted Chief Commissioner to this matter.

#### 47. The same paper has the following:—

The Chief Commissioner's levee.

This year also, as usual, many native gentlemen were invited to the Chief Commissioner's levee. But we regret to say that many other native gentlemen of rank and education were not invited. It is the practice everywhere to invite to a levee all gentlemen of rank and respectability and the representatives of particular sects and communities. As this practice has been violated in the present case, we should like to know what qualifications a man must possess in order that his name may be put on the levee list. It is very strange that this year many respectable pleaders, merchants and even Municipal Commissioners, the representatives of the people, were not invited. We do not know who was entrusted with the preparation of the levee list, but it is certain that this responsible duty was not entrusted to our highminded Deputy Commissioner or to any of his subordinates, who have local experience.

PARIDARSAK,  
Jan. 16th, 1900.

PARIDARSAK.

PARIDARSAK.

PARIDARSAK.



PARIDARSAK,  
Jan. 16th, 1900.

48. The same paper has the following:—

Wanted a pasture ground in Sylhet.

It has become very difficult to keep cattle in Sylhet for want of good pasture land. In the mufassal, where there is plenty of pasture land, the condition of the cattle is far better than in the town. There are many places in the vicinity of the town where large quantities of grass can be grown. The field near the Kajalsare race-course and the Dubri Haor and Idga fields may be used as pasture. These lands were formerly used as the pasture ground of the town, but they have been recently converted into rice-fields. We do not know what the raiyats gain by cultivating such small plots of land. It will be better for them to grow fodder on these plots for the support of their cattle. We have often requested the Government to set apart some pasture land for the town, and the Government has passed a law for the purpose. But we think that that law will never come into force, but will always remain a dead-letter.

PARIDARSAK

49. The same paper has the following:—

Wanted railway extension up to Sylhet town.

There is no probability of the proposal to connect Sylhet with the Assam-Bengal Railway, by a branch line from the Jilagaon station on that railway, being soon carried into effect. The Chief Commissioner visits the place every year, and is therefore well acquainted with the unsatisfactory state of its communications. The future prosperity of Sylhet depends largely on the opening of a railway line in the place. We hope that the Assam Government will kindly see that a branch railway line is soon carried as far as the town.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 27th January, 1900.*